

Basic Training Graduation Letter

F/1-40th Field Artillery

CLASS 38-16

FROM THE COMMANDER:

Hello again to the families of Fox Battery Spartans! The Soldiers of Fox Battery are proving their mettle every day. By now your Soldier has already completed the gas chamber, Treadwell Tower, Team Development Course, completed the 4km and 8km foot marches, qualified on their M16A4/M4 Carbine, and completed Army Combatives. I would like to personally thank you for keeping your Soldier motivated and dedicated towards achieving their goals throughout the previous weeks. The Spartans are motivated, knowledgeable, fit, and ready for graduation! Before they do, however, there is still some training left to be completed, so please continue to keep them motivated!

This is the time of the cycle when families are anxious to make their travel plans to see their Soldier graduate. This newsletter will provide you with information you need in order to make your travel arrangements. **We strongly suggest that you do not make any travel arrangements that cannot be changed until you have received confirmation from your Soldier that they are eligible to graduate.** I will ensure that your Soldier contacts you should he/she **NOT** be eligible to

graduate. Currently, your Soldier is scheduled to graduate on **Friday, 20 May 2016 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Cache Creek Chapel (6043 Rothwell St. Fort Sill, OK 73503).

A brief reception will be held following graduation. This will allow you time to talk to the Drill Sergeants and Cadre, while your Soldier prepares to go on pass. While you are here at Fort Sill, we ask that you help us to preserve our training environment. Please do not smoke or use inappropriate language in or around the training area. Please wear appropriate attire; there is no dress code, but vulgar or distasteful slogans or exposures are unacceptable. On Fort Sill, **PERSONALLY OWNED WEAPONS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.**

GRADUATION WEEK!!!

Basic Training graduation is an important milestone for all Soldiers. I encourage families and friends to attend the Family Day festivities and of course, the graduation ceremony if possible. Graduation will undoubtedly be an event that is forever etched into your Soldier's memory and having family and friends on-hand to experience the occasion

makes the event even more memorable. family and friends the opportunity to experience the Basic Combat Training environment first-hand and more importantly the opportunity to visit with your Soldier prior to their departure for Advanced Individual Training (AIT).

Because your Soldier will be in training, you will not be able to see him/her until **10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 19 May 2016** when the battery hosts Family Day activities at ***1st Battalion 40th Field Artillery, Watson Hall (BLDG 6050)*** (Enclosure-Agenda) to demonstrate the skills your Soldier has learned in the past 10 weeks. After the Family Day activities, Soldiers may be granted a local pass to visit with family and friends from **11:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Your Soldier is expected to graduate from Basic Combat Training at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, 20 May 2016**. We invite you to attend your Soldier's graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony will take place at the Cache Creek Chapel (***Fort Sill, Ok.***) (Enclosure-Address of Graduation). *If you and your loved ones are traveling by airplane to come to family day and graduation day, I highly encourage and recommend you to buy airline ticket insurance just in case any situation may arise; we operate in a dynamic environment where changes can occur on occasion.*

Family members and other guests are responsible for all of their own travel arrangements. Lawton has its own airport as well as Oklahoma City (approximately 1.5 hours from Fort Sill). Check both locations, airfare varies between both airports. If you fly I suggest you rent a car or take a taxi as a means of transportation to your hotel and

Graduation and Family Day also afford graduation activities. The airport has a limited supply of rental cars, so make your reservations early. If rooms are available, you can stay in the on-post transient lodging, Holiday Inn Express on Fort Sill. To stay on post you must make your reservations in advance by calling **1-877-711-8326**. Please be prepared to provide the reservation clerk with the name and rank of the Soldier that you will be visiting while on Fort Sill. Our on-post lodging facilities are located very close to the Field Artillery Training Center.

On occasion, trainees fail to graduate within the usual 10-week period. If your Soldier is not going to meet graduation requirements we will afford them the opportunity to contact family members as soon as the issue is identified. Again, **PLEASE PURCHASE INSURANCE ON TICKETS JUST IN CASE!**

THURSDAY, 19 MAY 2016

The first Family-oriented event for graduation week is the Family Day Demonstration at Watson Hall (BLDG 6050) from **10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** It is recommended that you show up at least 15 minutes early. In this brief, the Battery will highlight the accomplishments the Soldiers made over the past ten weeks and discuss the pass policy for Thursday and Friday. There will be a Family Day demonstration conducted by the Soldiers.

Following the Family Day demonstration, Soldiers will be released on pass from the Battery. While on pass, Soldiers **MUST** remain within the confines of the Lawton/ Fort Sill area.

Soldiers must be back at the Battery by 8:00 p.m. in order to ensure they are present for the accountability formation.

FRIDAY, 20 MAY 2016

Graduation ceremonies **will begin at 10:00 a.m. on May 20th at the Cache Creek Chapel (6403 Rothwell St, Fort Sill, OK). The doors will open at 09:45 a.m.** During the ceremony, please feel free to take pictures of your Soldier as they graduate. The graduating class will be seated together and will not have the opportunity to socialize at this time. Immediately following the ceremony, we will host a reception. This will give you a chance to see other Family members, talk with the Drill Sergeants and Cadre and enjoy some refreshments. Your Soldier will join you at the reception. Following the reception, your Soldier will be released on pass. All Soldiers, except those attending AIT at Fort Sill (13, 14, and 94 series MOS's), will be released from the Cache Creek Chapel and will be allowed to go on pass.

Soldiers who are staying at Ft. Sill for AIT who are a 13 series MOS will report to 1st Battalion, 78th Field Artillery, 14 series MOS will report to the 6th Air Defense Artillery, and 94 series will report to the Ordinance Training Detachment immediately following graduation. At that point, pass privileges are given at the discretion of his/her new command team. You can reach 1-78 FA at (580) 442-6468, 6 ADA at (580) 442-2091, and OTD at (580) 442-5686.

Again, all other Soldiers must be back at the Battery by 8:00 p.m. in order to ensure they are at the accountability formation.

MAY 21st AND BEYOND...

Most Soldiers will be leaving Fort Sill in the early morning of May 21st.

Unfortunately, we will not typically receive confirmation on your Soldier's definite travel arrangements until approximately 72 hours prior to graduation. Additionally, all Soldiers, of any MOS, must travel to his/her AIT location via government travel arrangements. They are not authorized to travel with Family Members to report to their AIT location.

If you have important questions or if you need additional information, please feel free to contact the unit:

We are here to train your Soldier and welcome them into the Army. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Battery Commander

CPT Garrett C. Bailey E-mail
garrett.c.bailey4.mil@mail.mil

Battery First Sergeant

1SG Rudy J. Rodriguez E-mail
rudy.j.rodriguez6.mil@mail.mil